Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 INT-08 SCEM-02 CAB-09 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 NSC-10 AID-20 CIEP-02

TRSE-00 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 SCI-06 DOTE-00 L-03 H-03

DRC-01 IO-14 /180 W

----- 02807

R 041853Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5219

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: AVIATION FUEL

1. AIR FRANCE IS EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES IN FUEL SUPPLY IN NEW YORK, ACCORDING QUAI AMERICAS DIRECTOR DE ST. LEGIER. HE TOLD POLCOUNS ON DEC 3 THAT

EDENCH EMPAGGY WAGHINGTON HAD ELA

FRENCH EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAD FLAGGED URGENTLY TO QUAIS'S

ATTENTION FACT THAT EXXON HAD INFORMED AIR FRANCE ITS FUEL

DELIVERIES IN NEW YORK WOULD BE REDUCED BY 90 PERCENT.

EXXON HAD BEEN AI FRANCE'S SOLE SUPPLIER AND DIFFICULTY

HAS BEEN ENCOUNTERED IN OBTAINING ASSURANCES OF FUEL

FROM OTHER SOURCES TO COMPENSATE FOR EXXON SHORTFALL.

EXXON REDUCTION APPARENTLY IS NOT DISCRIMINATORY BUT

APPLICABLE TO ALL CARRIERS. ST. LEGIER SAID THAT

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WHILE HE WAS MERELY INFORMING US OF THIS DEVELOPMENT,

FRENCH EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON WAS BEING INSTRUCTED RAISE MATTER PROMPTLY WITH DEPARTMENT.

- 2. PRESS REPORTS THAT BY END THIS WEEK MEASURES WILL BE ANNOUNCED FOR FUEL ECONOMY BY FRENCH CARRIERS AIR FRANCE, UTA AND AIR INTER, WHICH ARE CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN CONVERSATIONS THIS SUBJECT WITH SGAC. MEASURES CONSIDERED LIKELY PERTAIN TO CAPACITY AND CONDITIONS OF AIRCRAFT OPERATION. PRESS (LES ECHOS) STRESSES THAT MEASURES APPEAR REFLECT DESIRE TO AVOID WASTE OF FUEL RATHER THAN EXISTENCE AVIATION FUEL SHORTAGE IN FRANCE.
- 3. IT IS ALSO REPORTED THAT BECAUSE OF HIGHER FUEL COSTS UTA IS INCREASING ITS "DOMESTIC" RATES BY 10 PERCENT IN LINE WITH DECISION TAKEN BY ASSOCIATION OF AIR TRANSPORTERS OF FRANCE AREA(ATAF).
- 4. PIERRE COT, DIRECTOR GENERAL AIR FRANCE, TOLD PRESS THAT AIR FRANCE ENVISAGES REDUCING CAPACITY ON NORTH ATLANTIC BY TEN PERCENT IN 1974 THROUGH ELIMINATION TWO WEEKLY FLIGHTS. SAID TALKS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN WASHINGTON WITH PANAM.

COMMENT: WE ASSUME AIR FRANCE PROBLEM PARA. 1 ABOVE RELATES TO BONDED FUEL, THOUGH WE NOTE EXXON WAS NOT ONE OF SUPPLIERS
CITED IN STATE 231107. SINCE SITUATION HERE REMAINS AS REPORTED PARIS 29228 AND US CARRIERS EXPERIENCING NO DIFFICULTY IN REFUELING IN PARIS, WE HOPE THAT MEANS CAN BE FOUND TO HELP ALLEVIATE AIR FRANCE'S REFUELING PROBLEMS IN NEW YORK TO EXTENT CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT.IRWIN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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